

Appl. No. 09/634,522
Amendment

Atty Dkt. No. 112736-015

REMARKS

Prior to this Amendment, claims 1-22, 38-45 and 65-78 were pending in the application. In this Amendment, claims 1-3, 18 and 19 have been amended, claims 69 and 71 have been cancelled without prejudice, and claims 79-80 have been added. Thus, claims 1-22, 38-45, 65-68, 70 and 72-80 are pending in the application.

During a telephone conversation with the Examiner on December 28, 2004, it was indicated that the claims would be allowable if all of the independent claims included the limitation of the polymeric material being cross-linked. Although Applicant believes claims are allowable without that limitation, the claims have been amended to include the "cross-linked" limitation. All of the independent claims now include the "cross-linked" limitation. Thus, Applicant submits that all of the claims are allowable.

CONCLUSION


For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the patent application is in condition for allowance and requests a Notice of Allowance be issued.

Respectfully submitted,

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BY


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